



ROBERT W. WIRCH
STATE SENATOR TWENTY-SECOND DISTRICT

American Jobs Act

I am pleased to have introduced the American Jobs Act with Representative Mark Pocan and want to thank Chairman Molepske for acting on this bill.

The American Jobs Act is leadership by example.

When state agencies contract for services and pay for those services with tax dollars, the people of this state have an expectation that their tax dollars will be spent with companies that operate in their local community, Wisconsin or elsewhere in the United States – where their tax dollars will help to grow our economy.

In order for our state government to be an effective advocate for our communities and have a strong voice against the outsourcing of Wisconsin jobs – we have to be certain that our own state government leads by example. The best way to do that is in the statutes.

While there are some exemptions, this bill requires all contractual services purchased by state executive branch agencies to be performed within the United States – unless those contractual services cannot be obtained in the United States.

There are few legislators whose districts haven't been negatively impacted by outsourcing, but this bill isn't just about outsourcing.

It's also about saving taxpayers money.

We need to take steps to have greater oversight of contracted services.

There have been too many articles in recent years about the tens of millions of tax dollars wasted on contractual services. Also, common sense dictates that we can increase our level of oversight by having the contracts performed at home – not half-way around the world.

Thank you, again, for holding this hearing today.



Wisconsin State AFL-CIO *...the voice for working families.*

David Newby, President • Sara J. Rogers, Exec. Vice President • Phillip L. Neuenfeldt, Secretary-Treasurer

TO: Senate Small Business, Emergency Preparedness, Technical Colleges &
Consumer Protection Committee

FROM: Phil Neuenfeldt, Secretary-Treasurer

DATE: April 1, 2009

RE: **Support for Assembly Bill 2**
American Jobs Act

This legislation requires contracted services purchased by state government to be performed in the United States, unless they cannot be obtained in this country. This will help reduce the transfer of jobs and work to other countries, especially those that allow companies to exploit sweatshop labor.

The Wisconsin State AFL-CIO opposes the outsourcing or privatization of state government services, but this option is allowed under current law. Public sector unions and their members know that the work performed by public employees will be competitive with the private sector—if cost and quality comparisons are done fairly. Assembly Bill 2 will help ensure that the costs paid by taxpayers will support the jobs of American workers in the event that state government does outsource services.

While this bill does not address the trade issue specifically, we ask that the Legislature and the Governor be vigilant about the impact of international trade treaties. These agreements should not limit our ability to control outsourcing and to require, when feasible, purchasing in Wisconsin or the U.S.

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